

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03104 041401Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
SIL-01 LAB-04 L-03 H-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /097 W
-----042123Z 126739 /66

R 041107Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5984
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3104

DEPT. PASS IO FOR PALMER; SIL FOR DALE GOOD

DEPT. PASS LABOR FOR SAMUELS, HOROWITZ, QUACKENBUSH, AVERY AND
LINSENMYER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND THE ILO

REF: A. TRIPOLI 549
B. TRIPOLI 558
C. TRIPOLI 569
D. STATE 96097

1. LABATT MET SEAPARATLY WITH JOEL BARROMI, DIRECTOR
OF THE MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION (WHO HAS
BEEN NAMED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA), AND WITH ARIE
GUREL, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF LABOR , TO DISCUSS
THE ILO AND PARTICULARLY THE ISRAELI REACTION TO THE
AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03104 041401Z

2. BOTH BARROMI AND GUREL NOW ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL
BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PREVENT LONG AND ACRIMONIOUS
DISCUSSION OF THE ISRAELI ISSUE AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE,
UNLESS ARTICLE 17 OF THE STANDING ORDERS
CAN FIRST BE AMENDED AND THEN USED TO BAR A REVIVAL
OF THE 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL.

3. UNLIKE MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI (SEE STATE 96097), BARROMI THOUGHT THAT IF ARAB AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO DEFY U.S. EFFORTS, BAR AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 AND RENEW EFFORTS TO PASS A CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL, THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE U.S. WOULD REMAIN IN THE ILO. HE FURTHER SAID THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN REACHED AS TO WHAT ACTION ISRAEL WOULD TAKE IN SUCH A CASE, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO FOLLOW SUIT AND LEAVE THE ILO. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WITH THE U.S. OUT OF THE ILO, THE ARABS WOULD TRY EITHER TO CHALLENGE ISRAEL'S CREDENTIALS AND THUS BAR IT FROM PARTICIPATION AT THE ILO CONVERENCE OR TO HAVE IT EXPELLED.

4. RATHER THAN FACE SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, ISRAEL WOULD PREFER TO WITHDRAW AT THE SAME TIME AS THE U.S. GIVEN HISTADRUT AND OTHER UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS IN THE THIRD WORLD, IT WOULD BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY EASIER TO MAINTAIN THESE TIES IF ISRAEL WERE TO LEAVE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE US RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL IT IS EXPELLED. MOREOVER, BEING EXPELLED OR SUSPENDED WOULD HAVE RATHER SERIOUS IMPLICATION FOR CONTINUING ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER U.N. AGENCIES.

5. GUREL INDICATED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD FELT FROM THE BEGINNING THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW SUIT IF THE U.S. LEAVES THE ILO, WHEREAS MFA OFFICIALS
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03104 041401Z

UNTIL RECENTLY HAD BEEN MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS ON PREDICTING WHAT ISRAEL WOULD DO. NOW, BOTH MINISTRIES ARE INCLINED TO BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE, BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. WILL WITHDRAW, AND TEND TO AGREE THAT THE GOI WOULD FOLLOW SUIT.

6. LABATT CAUTIONED BOTH BARROMI AND GUREL THAT, WHILE THERE WAS NOT MUCH ROOM FOR OPTIMISM, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE AFL-CIO WERE DOING ALL IN THEIR POWER TO ENSURE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY DECISION TO REVISE ARTICLE 17 AND TO BAR VIOLATION OF ILO RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR PURELY POLITICAL ENDS. AS ACCOUNTS OF THE TRIPOLI AFRICAN LABOR MINISTRES' CONFERENCE INDICATED, THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND PROBABLY EVEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES, ARE NOT LIKELY TO VOTE AS A BLOCK, NOTWITHSTANDING THE CONFERENCE DECISION TO "CALL ON THE ILO TO IMPLEMENT ITS 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL" AND TO OPPOSE AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: LABOR, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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